

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As below-named inventors, we hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenship are as stated below, next to our names.

We believe we are the original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**LOW-PROFILE BACK PLANE INTERCONNECTION DEVICE**

In the specification of which

  X   is attached hereto.  
       was filed on           , as U.S. Application No.           ,  
or PCT International Application Serial No.             
and was amended on            (if applicable).

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

We do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, and that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application.

We further acknowledge, in the case of a continuation-in-part application, the duty to disclose to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119, of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Day/Month/Year Filed)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Day/Month/Year Filed)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Day/Month/Year Filed)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>(Number)</u>	<u>(Country)</u>	<u>(Day/Month/Year Filed)</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>

We hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>(Application Serial No.)</u>	<u>(Filing Date)</u>	<u>(Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)</u>
<u>(Application Serial No.)</u>	<u>(Filing Date)</u>	<u>(Status -- patented, pending, abandoned)</u>

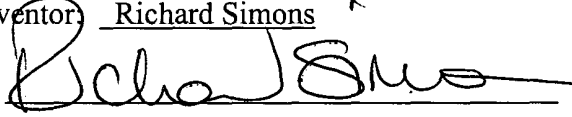
We hereby appoint to prosecute and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith as our attorneys: Karl D. Kovach, Reg. No. 40,278 and Steven M. Evans, Reg. No. 35,503, whose mailing address and telephone number is STRATOS LIGHTWAVE, INC., 7444 West Wilson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60706-4549, (708) 867-9600, and Messrs. Robert M. Barrett (Reg. No. 30,142), Adam H. Masia (35,602), Dante J. Picciano (33,543), Renato L. Smith (45,117), Alan L. Barry (30,819), Troy A. Groetren (46,442), Michael S. Leonard (37,557), William E. Vaughan (39,056), Patricia A. Kane (46,446), Thomas C. Basso (46,541), Robert W. Connors (46,639), Jeffrey H. Canfield (Reg. No. 38,404), Christopher S. Hermanson (Reg. No. 48,244), and Jason Engel (51,654) all members of the firm of BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected herewith and direct that all correspondence be forwarded to:

Karl D. Kovach, Esq.  
Stratos Lightwave, Inc.  
7444 West Wilson Avenue  
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We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all

statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Date of Deposit September 2, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal

Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service, under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

